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FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI, ACTION SECSTATE,
INFO DACCA, ISLAMABAD, BELGRADE, COLOMBO, MADRAS, CALCUTTA,
BOMBAY, MARCH 17, 1973 REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3091

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TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, BG, EG

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

SUMMARY. EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT DELHI SEEN BY
BOTH SIDES AS HAVING INVOLVED RESTATEMENT OF KNOWN POSITIONS.
EGYPT APPARENTLY DID NOT CHANGE VIEWS ABOUT RECOGNITION OF
BANGLADESH, THOUGH FORMIN'S VISIT TO DACCA ANNOUNCED DURING
STAY HERE. EGYPT FEELS INDIA ALREADY WELL AWARE OF AN
SYMPATHETIC TO ARAB VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST BUT CONSIDERED DELHI
STOP NECESSARY AS PART CURRENT EFFORT EXPLAIN POSITION. NON-
ALIGNED COOPERATION AGREED TO IN GENERAL BUT NOT SPECIFIC TERMS.
END SUMMARY.

1. MEA DEPUTY SECRETARY (WEST ASIA NORTH AFRICA DIVISION)
AND EGYPTIAN CHARGE HAVE SEPARATELY TOLD US EGYPTIAN FOREIGN
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MINISTER' S EL- ZAYYAT' S VISIT DELHI MARCH 8 TO 11 INVOLVED REITERATION STANDARD POSITIONS ON SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. COMMUNIQUE CERTAINLY SUPPORTS THIS INTERPRETATION. ONLY ACTION TAKEN DURING VISIT WAS SIGNING OF CULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT, WHICH ACCORDING TO MEA OFFICIAL HAPPENED TO BE READY AT TIME OF VISIT.

2. INDIA- PAKISTAN- BANGLADESH: COMMUNIQUE REPORTS EGYPTIANS " APPRECIATED" INDIAN POSITION ON SITUATION IN SUBCONTINENT, " SUPPORTED" INDIAN EFFORTS AND " EXPRESSED HOPE COUNTRIES OF SUBCONTINENT WOULD BE ABLE TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES AND LIVE TOGETHER PEACEFULLY..." IN EXCHANGE WITH PRESS AFTER CALLING ON PRIME MINISTER, EL- ZAYYAT TRIED TO DODGE QUESTIONS ON ESTABLISHMENT FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BY NOTING PRESENCE EGYPTIAN TRADE MISSION DACCA AND OBSERVING THAT " RECOGNITION" ONLY MATTER OF CHANGING ITS NAME PLATE. PRESSED , HE SAID ESTABLISHMENT FULL RELATIONS WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH BANGLADESH OFFICIALS. SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED HE WOULD VISIT DACCA MARCH 23. NEITHER MEA NOR EGYPTIAN INDICATED MUCH GIVE IN EGYPTIAN POSITION. LATTER MAINTAINED NEITHER INDIA NOR BANGLADESH EXERTING PRESSURE, ADDING RECOGNITION WOULD HAVE TO BE JOINT EGYPTIAN- SYRIAN- LIBYAN ACTION. HE ALSO SUGGESTED MUJIB HAD UPPER HAND AND SAW NO NEED TO STRENGTHEN IT FURTHER, EVEN IF ONLY MARGINALLY, BY EGYPTIAN RECOGNITION. MEA OFFICIAL SUGGESTED EGYPT INFLUENCED ON THIS ISSUE BY ITS MORE CONSERVATIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS, SAUDI ARABIA AND LIBYA, BOTH OF WHICH PRO- PAKISTAN. HE SOUGHT TO PLAY DOWN IMPORTANCE EGYPTIAN RECOGNITION BY NOTING NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ALREADY RECOGNIZE D, HIGH- LEVEL BANGLADESH- EGYPTIAN CONTACTS, AND MAINTENANCE EGYPTIAN TRADE MISSION IN DACCA. (BUT GOI WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY LIKE TO SEE BANGLADESH ACCEPTANCE BY SOME ARAB COUNTRIES IN ADDITION TO IRAQ.)

3. MIDDLE EAST: COMMUNIQUE SAYS GOI REITERATED NECESSITY FOR VACATION OF ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAELI AGGRESSION, AS DEMANDED BY SC RES 242 OF NOVEMBER 1967, AND FOR THE RESTORATION OF INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. EGYPTIAN CHARGE PUT VISIT IN CONTEXT CURRENT EGYPTIAN EFFORT TO EXPLAIN ITS POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST TO PERMANENT MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL, INCLUDING CHINA, AS WELL AS TO MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE MADE CLEAR THAT EGYPT FELT IT COULD NOT IGNORE INDIA,
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WHICH NO HIGH- LEVEL EGYPTIAN HAD VISITED FOR SOME YEARS.

HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT TWO COUNTRIES IN CLOSE CONTACT
IN NEW YORK AND CAIRO AND THAT GOI ALREADY FULLY SYMPATHETIC
TO EGYPTIAN POSITION. MEA OFFICIAL NOTED EGYPT NOW CONSULTING
WITH MORE COUNTRIES ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION THAT IT WAS IN TIME
OF NASSER AND NEHRU, IMPLYING THAT WHILE INDIAN ABSOLUTE
IMPORTANCE TO EGYPT

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